Financial Assistance to Assam for Agricultural Sector

494. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) tne amount of financial assistance granted to Assam for providing agriculture loans to farmers during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, district-wise; and

(b) the details of assistance proposed *to* be granted for the said purpose during the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinancing" facility to Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks for providing adequate credit to the farmers.

Refinance assistance to Assam for providing investment and for Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) credit to farmers during the last four years is given as under—

(Rs. in Crores)

Years	SAO	Investment
1996-97	1.07	65.53
1997-98	0.35	81.33
1998-99	0.20	103.43
1999-2000		66.25

Refinance assistance is provided to the State because Assam has two tier Cooperative Credit Structure (State Cooperative Bank at the apex level and Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperatives at the primary level). Therefore, district-wise information in not available.

(b) For investment credit, NABARD has allocated refinance assistance to the State amounting to Rs 128.74 crore for the year 2000-01. For SAO advances, refinance to the financial institutions of the State for the year 2000-01 is yet to be decided by NABARD.